

Application No. 10/765,341
Amendment dated February 4, 2005
Reply to Restriction Requirement of January 7, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A rongeur for cutting bone or cartilage, comprising:
 - a shaft terminating in a foot plate;
 - a carrier member in slidable relationship to said shaft, said carrier member having a leading end, a trailing end opposite said leading end, and an open interior, said leading end having an opening in communication with said open interior;
 - a tubular member configured to be removably inserted at least in part into said open interior of said carrier, said tubular member having an open end with a cutting edge adapted to contact said foot plate and cut pieces of bone or cartilage, said tubular member having a storage area proximate said cutting edge in communication with said open end, said storage area configured to collect and store at least one cut piece of bone or cartilage, said shaft being in slidable relationship with said carrier member without passing through said tubular member; and
 - a mechanism for providing reciprocal motion of said carrier member and said shaft relative to one another.
2. (original) The rongeur of claim 1, wherein said carrier member is removably coupled to at least a portion of said shaft.
3. (original) The rongeur of claim 2, further comprising a lock for locking said carrier member to at least a portion of said shaft.
4. (original) The rongeur of claim 1, wherein said storage area increases in cross sectional area at least in part from said leading end to said trailing end of said carrier member.
5. (original) The rongeur of claim 1, wherein said tubular member includes a

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second opening in communication with said storage area, said second opening adapted to be closed by a portion of said rongeur when in use.

6. (original) The rongeur of claim 1, wherein said carrier member includes at least a portion thereof that is replaceable.
7. (original) The rongeur of claim 1, wherein said tubular member is disposable.
8. (original) The rongeur of claim 1, wherein said tubular member is configured to store multiple cut pieces of bone or cartilage.
9. (original) The rongeur of claim 1, wherein said mechanism includes a handle for providing said reciprocal motion of said carrier member and said shaft relative to one another.
10. (original) The rongeur of claim 1, wherein said carrier member is configured to be operatively coupled to at least one of a portion of said shaft and said mechanism.
11. (original) The rongeur of claim 10, wherein said carrier member is configured to hold the cut pieces of bone or cartilage upon uncoupling from at least one of said shaft and said mechanism.
12. (original) The rongeur of claim 1, wherein said carrier member is configured to prevent any of the cut pieces of bone or cartilage stored in said storage area from being ejected from said storage area while said rongeur is being used to cut the bone or cartilage.
13. (original) The rongeur of claim 1, wherein said tubular member comprises a metal.
14. (original) The rongeur of claim 1, wherein said tubular member comprises a plastic material.

Claims 15-20 (cancelled).